GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3536
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2017
Forest Based Industries
Nete Shri Ashok Mahadeorao

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken/proposes to take any step to formulate any appropriate programme for the proper development and protection of forests and growth and progress of the industries based thereon and the people engaged therein in the country; and
(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a)& (b) Protection and Management of Forests is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State/UTs Forest Department. Various actions to protect forest are taken by concerned State/UTs Forest Department as per the provisions under various acts such as Indian Forest Act, 1927, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and various rules made under these and State specific acts and rules. To protect forest, various measures are taken by State Forest Departments, such as survey and demarcation of forest areas, construction of boundary pillars and check posts, use of modern technology (that includes wireless network, remote sensing, Geographical Information System, Global Positioning System), improved mobility to the field staff by providing vehicles for patrolling, etc. Local communities are also encouraged and involved in conservation, protection and management of forests through Joint Forest Management Committees/Village level committees. Further, Government of India has taken the following steps for growth and progress of Forest Based Industries:-

(i) Ministry of Agriculture had formulated the National Agroforestry Policy 2014 with the objectives inter-alia to meet the raw material requirements of wood based industries and reduce import of wood and wood products to save foreign exchange.

(ii) Ministry has issued suggestive guidelines for felling and transit regulation for tree species grown on non-forest private land with an aim to create conducive environment, which encourages the individuals to adopt farm/agro/homestead forestry.
(iii) The Ministry has issued Wood Based Industries (Establishment and Regulation) Guidelines, 2016 to decentralize the regulatory processes concerning the wood based industries for the development of the sector in the country.

****